

Merger with WNTC Opposed

SGA Senate passed a motion on Tuesday March 11 in favor of merging radio stations WRPS and WNTC in an attempt to alleviate funding three stations between the Potsdam State and Clarkson campuses.

In 1967, a radio enthusiastic student at Potsdam State investigated the format of WNTC. Finding that WNTC was not directly student and campus oriented, a proposal was made to establish a radio station exclusively at State and with a handful of influential contacts in Senate, WRPS was the result.

As early as 1968 a merger of WNTC and WRPS was discussed in the controversy of the need for three radio stations, WNTC, WRPS and WTSC between both campuses. ICRN (Inter-College Radio Network) incorporates WNTC and WTSC.

The Student Government Association and Clarkson College Student Association equally fund both stations. WRPS is funded solely by SGA. In 1970, the Executive Committee proposed the termination of funds to ICRN whereas WRPS, alone would be funded. A petition concluded from the State campus, a rejection of the committee's proposal. It was at this

time that a Clarkson student, Scotty Amundsen, drew up a merger agreement between WNTC and WRPS. It was this agreement that tentatively passed in Senate Tuesday March 11, 1975.

Whereas:

"There will be a merger of WRPS and WNTC as stated in the proposal presented to Senate on March 11, 1975 to this end: That the amount of money approved by Finance Committee for WRPS be added to the ICRN budget. Be it directed that the Executive Committees of the two stations draw up a budget and a proposal of merger by May 1st. 1975 for approval by both SGA and CCSA. If the proposal and budget are not approved, then the budgets for ICRN and WRPS are approved as they were recommended by Finance Committee. Should there be a merger, the budget line items specifically applicable to WTSC are approved as recommended by Finance Committee."

During the week following this in Senate a new motion was brought up to put the funds of both WRPS and WNTC in escrow if a new proposal was not presented by May 1st. This motion fortunately was very narrowly defeated.

When the whole SGA Budget was presented for approval to SGA president Steve Immerman, one of the recommendations he made when he returned the budget to Senate was to cut funds for WNTC.

At the first Senate meeting after Easter recess on April 1st., Senate refused to cut funding WNTC.

Gary Landrio, advertising manager and disc jockey at WNTC commented: "I'm sort of the instigator for the whole thing. I've been pushing for a merger for the last two years. Overall, there are problems in combining WNTC and WRPS, but it will be the greatest thing for radio on both campuses."

Sighting advantages, Landrio emphasized increased income, consolidation of records, equipment and staff. "Every year passing funding allocations is a

'Every year passing funding allocations is like a swinging pendulum. A merger will put an end to all funding problems."

He also added that the merged station will not only have an increased coverage area and improved reception, but a stereo station on the FM cable network as well.

too incomplete for the Senates to make a final decision on at

Dan Baker, manager of WNTC, stated "the proposal is this time." WNTC, the NTC standing for "Northern Twin Colleges" was established by and for both Potsdam State and Clarkson. The station hits the highest point of accomplishment and contribution to both campuses when the distribution of students between Clarkson and State is equal. Our location in Hiram Hall illustrates this equality in being between both campuses. WNTC is 50-50% for merging. WRPS is against it 15-3. I'm for the merger, but not for the station to move and become a State run station or a Clarkson run station."

During the past week the opinions of the station staffs have changed. WNTC is now almost completely for the merger and WRPS is just as completely against it.

Andy Davidson, station manager of WRPS stated that "WRPS is against this merger because neither station is ready for such a step. The problems it would cause at the present time would outweigh the advantages. WRPS has begun to get back on its feet after last year's hassles and severe budget cut. We have made a lot of progress and I

would like to see it continue. Currently we are implementing format and programming changes and are formulating plans to extend transmission off-campus. The merger was brought up in too much of a hurry and there is no way I will approve an ambiguous proposal that is five years old. We wish to continue as an exclusively Potsdam State radio station and I don't think that the SGA Senate should be allowed to force a merger as they are trying to do. What I don't think the Senate realizes in asking for a new budget is that funding a merger will cost more than funding WRPS and WNTC separately. I see no reason to cut funding to either station. This whole thing was brought up because the WNTC budget was threatened and that threat is now gone. As far as this merger being the best thing for radio goes, I simply don't agree. Two stations can provide a much better service to the community if programming and policy are handled efficiently. WRPS is trying to change as change is very necessary in Broadcasting and I want to see WNTC and WRPS left as they are."